

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 11, 2003 **Project Number:** 9124.04

Location: Derry Municipal Building
Derry, NH

Re: **First Public Meeting for the
Salem to Concord Bikeway Feasibility Study**

Meeting Summary

The first of four public meetings to be held on the Salem to Concord Bikeway Feasibility Study was held at the Derry Municipal Building on February 11, 2003 between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. The meeting was held to present to the public the three options currently under consideration for the Salem to Concord Bikeway. The meeting began with welcomes by Paul Doolittle, Derry Town Council and Ram Maddali, NHDOT. Ram continued and discussed the purpose of the project and the study process. Bill Cass, NHDOT presented the I-93 bike path option, Domenic Ciavarro, Rizzo Associates presented the roadway option and Paul Smith presented the rail to trail option.

The following summarizes the issues and concerns raised by the public after hearing the presentations.

- What uses would be allowed on the rail trail during the winter? Snowmobiling, cross country skiing, walking, snow shoeing
- How would the rail trail be surfaced?
 - Gravel/stone dust – concerns for erosion and children on bicycles
 - Pavement with gravel/stone dust shoulder – more friendly, encourages use, good access for handicapped persons, good for bicyclists and horses
- Rail trail should be wide enough to accommodate all types of users.

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- Any use of rail ROW should fit into state and/or local transportation master plans.
- Put any new railroads in the I-93 median.
- How will the trail be maintained?
 - it is difficult for towns to maintain trails
 - vandalism is a problem that may go away with added users
 - in the summer local trail groups and clubs can help
 - in the winter DRED can help and snowmobile clubs
 - trail should last 20 years if well designed
 - how are the Minuteman Bikeway and Cape Cod Bikeway maintained
- Can segments of the trail be constructed? Yes
 - The Salem to Manchester trail segment would serve many high population centers.
- Can the funding provided in the I-93 project for the bike path be used for other options such as the rail to trail? Unknown at this time
 - Private/corporate support may help with funding
- There have been three other rail corridors studied for conversion to a trail. Coordination with Massachusetts is needed.
- Rail Option advantages/disadvantages
 - + good alternative for car trips
 - + good connections to local roadway
 - + good connection between town centers
 - + safest for low level bike riders
 - + wild life
 - + easy gradient

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- + rail ROW in Salem is ugly as is
- – river and channel crossings are expensive
- I-93 Option advantages/disadvantages
 - – noisy
 - – potential long grades will be difficult for all but the best riders
 - – air quality
 - – not a lot of good connections to local towns
 - – no appeal
 - + funding is available
- On Road Option advantages/disadvantages
 - – cars hurt
 - – many dangerous intersections with roads and driveways
 - – cars traveling at any speed over 30 mph are too fast to mix with bicycles or walkers
 - – expensive to add shoulders/bike lanes
 - – grades are difficult for all but the best riders
 - – roads are dangerous to even experienced riders
 - – few bicyclists uses the roads now, who would in the future
 - + adjacent businesses may benefit

Notes prepared by NBD

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